



Byelection results

Stephen Passero wins
Ward 2 seat

2



Call of duty

Fort Erie native serves in
U.S. army

28

Reading series continues
in Ridgeway in April. See
page 27.

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Community leaders predict 'bright future'

➤ Chamber hosts
State of Fort
Erie Address

Annie Pasquariello
Special to The Times

The state of Fort Erie
and its future is promis-
ing.

But the town is not with-
out its problems. These
issues were acknowledged
Tuesday morning during
the annual State of Fort
Erie breakfast.

The event, hosted by the
Greater Fort Erie Chamber
of Commerce at
Bridgewater Country Club,
allowed the community's
leaders to address the
town's developments
while helping residents to
understand issues at large
and future visions.

Keynote speakers
included Mayor Wayne
Redekop, Jim Thibert, general
manager Fort Erie
Economic Development and Tourism
Corporation, and Chamber
president Rick Phibbs.

Each speaker discussed
the new investments hap-
pening in the community
and how they will benefit
future generations as well
as the role they and their
colleagues play in con-



Rick Phibbs, president Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Wayne Redekop, Jim Thibert, general manager Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation at the annual State of Fort Erie address on Tuesday at Bridgewater Country Club.

ANNIE PASQUARIELLO Special to The Times

tinuing supporting growth
in Fort Erie.

According to Phibbs, the
role of the Chamber is to
assist, promote and advo-

cate.
"We work to engage all
levels of government. Our
need in this regard has
never been stronger," he

says. "In order to advance
the region collectively, we
need to work together."

Redekop says they are
trying to repair the town's

image and the new town
council is trying to make
Fort Erie the best commu-
nity it can be.

See Page 3



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Easter Sunday

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Passero 'honoured to serve constituents'

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Stephen Passero is looking forward to serving the residents of Fort Erie once again.

Passero won the race for Ward 2 on Monday night with 658 votes, followed by candidates Larry Graber, with 374 votes, John Mollicone with 101

and George Jardine with 20. The results were posted on the Town of Fort Erie's web site following the election.

Passero served on council as the representative for Ward 1 from 2010 to 2014 until he sought the mayor's seat during the municipal election in October, losing to Mayor Wayne Redekop.

Passero felt "mixed emotions" winning the seat for Ward 2 because the byelection was called earlier this year following the death of Ward 2 Councillor Rick Shular.

Shular had served on council since 2003.

"I am in this position because of something that happened to someone else and that's prob-



Stephen Passero

oured to now be serving those constituents."

Passero said he is grateful for the support the community has given him during the byelection.

"This campaign was 10% me and 90% family and supporters. It's because of them that I can be in this position and I want to take the time to thank them for supporting me and coming out to vote," Passero said.

"I've been to most of the (council) meetings since October. I am up to speed on where things stand and I'm looking forward to meeting with colleagues and staff in the days ahead and seeing where I can best contribute," Passero added.

sarah.ferguson@sourmedia.ca

ably the reason there is no celebration tonight. We are keeping it low key," Passero explained.

"I worked with Rick very closely for those four years and respected him very much and I am hon-

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'...We need to differentiate ourselves from other municipalities'

From Page 1

"We need to put forth a more positive image and we are working together to do that," he says.

"A new website, better use of social media and print media are ways the town is working to craft the message, not someone else."

Thibert says "we live in a community with a lot of potential, but we need to differentiate ourselves from other municipalities."

"Real economy is in your pockets and that is why we talk to local business owners. We don't create jobs at the EDTC. Our job is to create opportunities in Fort Erie for you to create jobs," he says.

Some projects displaying positive growth for Fort Erie include the Canadian Motor Speedway, Miller Creek Marina Development, GO Transit service, the new high school and the



We need to put forth a more positive image and we are working together to do that."

— Mayor Wayne Redekop

Fort Erie Racetrack, but as Phibbs points out, "we must remain vigilant in supporting these projects."

The main strategic objectives of the town and council according to Redekop are: a prosperous and growing community, effective sustainable infrastructure and strong customer service and communications. Two councillors will be assigned to each objective

to ensure they are implemented and maintained.

"To build a prosperous and growing community we want to build an integrated waterfront and tourism strategy. The most prosperous communities are ones that are unique," he says.

Not only is tourism and the waterfront in that objective, but Redekop says there is a need to attract post-secondary programs or training facilities, assess healthcare needs of the community and to find a way to get the slots back at the racetrack as that is fundamental to the long-term future of the racetrack.

Effective sustainable infrastructure is creating an asset management plan. This infrastructure plan is to allocate resources and also provide a plan to renew infrastructure in the future."

Redekop explains strong customer service



We need to fight for Fort Erie at the Regional level. They have a senior management team at the Region who have lived in or worked in Fort Erie..."

— Jim Thibert

and communications is for the public to be fully aware of what the town council and employees do and the implications. By creating a customer service policy, Fort Erie will be distinguished from other communities.

While many may see a weak Canadian dollar as

a negative, Thibert says this may encourage people to shop local as the exchange rate will discourage consumers from cross-border shopping. This also means Americans coming here for weekend getaways with their dollar being stronger and from an industrial side creates more competition in the export industry - a bonus in a cross-border town such as Fort Erie.

Thibert points out, although there is positive growth for Fort Erie, some issues that are still hurting us are a shortage of skilled labour, lack of shovel-ready lands, cost of inputs (capital energy), competition from Western New York and our image outside of Fort Erie.

Another impact is "commuter leakage." As many people in the community work out of town, they also spend their money out of town. This accounts for up to \$45 million in revenue lost

for the town each year, whether it is gas spending or other.

Thibert says we can't always look back when it comes to the economy of the town.

There have been restraints from government in the past on projects, but we are now in a position where the regional government is aware of happenings in Fort Erie.

"We need to fight for Fort Erie at the regional level. They have a senior management team at the region who have lived or worked in Fort Erie. The region can support us when we go to the province and can understand the issues more intimately for that reason," he says.

Redekop says everything is in place to make a prosperous community: a team, a vision and a plan.

"We all want to be proud of the place we came from and proud of the place we live."

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opinion page

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That sick feeling of 'permanently closed'

I guess there's some sort of irony that a chain called Future Shop no longer has one.

It's a pity I read a lot Saturday, walking up to the news all 131 Future Shop stores across Canada — including two in Niagara — had suddenly closed. Just like that, a place I have spent thousands of dollars and countless hours over the years is gone, in the most despicable way possible. Employees literally showed up for work at 7 a.m. to see the windows taped over with brown paper and a sign telling everyone "This Store is Permanently Closed."

No warning. No press release. Employees went home after their shift Friday not knowing it was for the last time. Their jobs were done.

Oh sure, the 500 full-time and 1,000 part-time employees will get their severance. Some will luck out and land at Best Buy, the U.S. chain which purchased Future Shop in 2001 and finally — inevitably — shuttered it because of the redundancy. Some will not doubt find something better more stable.

That doesn't ease what must have been a sick feeling Sunday morning. The uncertainty, the upheaval.

If you've never felt it, you're truly lucky. Mine came almost 25 years ago to the day, when I showed up for work mid-morning at the Brampton Times to a bunch of shell-shocked faces. My editor took me aside: There was a staff meeting at 9 a.m., when it was announced the struggling paper was closing. Tomorrow.

We had to put out one more paper wondering if our careers were finished. We had to do interviews while wondering how we'd be paying the rent in a few weeks. We heard the snide remarks from people who seemed happy the city had just lost its daily paper, that people were out of work. One former staff member wrote a column for his Ottawa paper saying he could finally sleep since he had constant nightmares about one day being sent back to The Times. I couldn't

believe how crass and uncaring some people were. And this was before social media.

It's a feeling I've never forgotten as I watch business after business close in Niagara, and each time there's an idiot contingent that revels in it. That loves pointing out "It's about time" or "They sucked anyway" or (my favorite) "Who cares?"

The worst thing I read was someone whining about all the Future Shop stores, since he made \$120,000 (and his wife \$80,000) and it didn't affect him at all.

I can't tell whether posts like this are a joke anymore. That's how awful people can be to each other when you don't have to use your real name.

Future Shop had its faults. Many businesses do in this climate of cutbacks and outsourcing. That isn't a green light to celebrate its demise. That doesn't warrant a soap box to gloat.

It feels like all of us in this region are standing on a precipice. The target that opened a few blocks from my place didn't even last two years. Future Shop, Sunrise Records and the London Arms restaurant — three of my favorite Niagara businesses — have all closed in the last year. Our unemployment rate is among the highest in the country. The Niagara Square mall feels more desolate with every visit. Making Sense — just released a story on how Canada's combined household debt (\$1.82 trillion) and inflated home prices makes us "now among the most vulnerable large economies in the world."

The despair is almost too much some days. I walk around my neighborhood and wonder what it will look like in 10 years. Who can afford these houses? Who will be the next to show up for work to see "Permanently Closed" signs?

Who — or what — can turn things around before Future Shop is all our futures?

We wait. And hang on.

—John Law
john.law@sunmedia.ca



Do You Remember?

Our thanks to Pierre d'Entremont, Rob Randall, Scott Johns and an anonymous Fort Erie Secondary School alumnus for writing in about last week's photo.

From left are Frank Williams, Kevin Cheu, Carey Gagnon and

James Falconer.

We were told these graduating students from the Fort Erie High School class of 1980-81 may have been from the school's Enrichment Club.

This week's photo fits with April

Fool's Day.

If you know the names of these good sports allowing themselves to get a pie in the face, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.on.ca.

letters to the editor

Pool has 'special place in the hearts' of Kinsmen members

Dear Editor,

The Kinsmen Club of Fort Erie has a special place in the hearts of all our present and former members for the Kinsmen Pool.

The pool was built by the Kinsmen Club of Fort Erie in

1967 to celebrate Canada's Centennial year.

We were honoured to have it named the Kinsmen Pool. The pool operated every year from 1967 to 2012, a total of 45 years.

It was instrumental in teaching many residents in Fort Erie to swim and was a welcome place to cool down on hot, humid summer days.

Many summer students who over the years worked as lifeguards and as swimming instructors at the Kinsmen

Pool have gone on to very rewarding careers many of them in education.

They fondly remember the summers spent at the Kinsmen Pool.

The Kinsmen Club of Fort Erie was very sad to have seen the Kinsmen Pool close in 2012.

We offered our services then to do whatever we could to have it reopened and remain available to do anything we can to assist.

We are therefore very

pleased to learn the Underwater Recovery Unit, which has 43 members, significantly more than our membership, have stepped forward to have the Kinsmen Pool reopened.

We are hopeful it will reopen this year and in future years. We wish the Underwater Recovery Unit much success in raising the funds to complete the necessary repairs and to hire qualified lifeguards and swimming instructors for reopen-

ing the Kinsmen Pool.

The Kinsmen Club of Fort Erie is very pleased to see partners such as Canadian Tire Jump Start is involved by providing financial assistance to fund a swimming lesson program and a possible grant from the Niagara Prosperity Initiative for the capital repairs.

I have been the President of the Kinsmen Club of Fort Erie for the last 12 years.

I cannot explain fully the anguish our members suf-

fered when the Kinsmen Pool was closed.

It was a safe environment for our children as compared to the Niagara River. For the people of Fort Erie and especially for those living in the north end the Kinsmen Pool was "the place to go to cool down."

We truly look forward to seeing the Kinsmen Pool back in operation this summer.

Larry Graber, Kinsmen Club President of Fort Erie.

Opinion page

Library offers a collection of Easter inspired books

Are decorated eggs and stories about the Easter bunny a tradition at your house?

Is the religious observance important to you?

In either case, you will want to enjoy some of the books in the Fort Erie Public Library collection with a child you care about. Brian Wildsmith and Aileen Fisher have each created books retelling the Bible story with beautiful illustrations.

Lynn Peppas in Celebrations in my world: Easter and Shannon Knudsen in Easter around the World explain the history and customs of Easter, the significance of the holiday, and the ways in which it is celebrated in many



Amy Roebuck
Fort Erie Public Library

places.

Some of the picture book stories do the same, including Patricia Polacco's *Rechenka's Eggs*. Henri, Egg Artist, by Marcus Pfister and Jan Brett's *The Easter Egg* are both books with stunningly detailed

and beautiful illustrations. Some of the newest books add a comical twist to the familiar story of bunnies, chicks and eggs.

Here comes the Easter Cat, Piggy Bunny, and The Easter Bunny's Assistant will all amuse and entertain children at family gatherings.

Familiar characters such as Winnie the Pooh, Thomas the Tank Engine and Fancy Nancy each have their own Easter story in the library, too.

The film collection also has some movies for adults appropriate to the season, including *Song of David* starring Diego Maradona, made in 2014; *Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ* starring Jim Caviezel; The Last

Temptation of Christ, released in 1988 and based on Nikos Kazantzakis' book; the 1973 movie version of Jesus Christ Superstar, based on Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera; The Greatest Story Ever Told, made in 1965 with Max von Sydow as Jesus.

There is even a 1973 *Godspell*, a 1959 *Ben-Hur* and a newly scored version of Cecil B. DeMille's 1927 silent classic *King of Kings*.

Tonight's film at the Centennial branch is *Railway Man*, starring Colin Firth. The movie will begin at 6:30 p.m., and will encore on Tuesday, April 7 at the Crystal Ridge branch beginning at 2:00 p.m. Paddington, featuring the

much-loved bear created by Michael Bond, will be playing at the Centennial branch on Saturday, April 4, beginning at 2:30 p.m. It will be shown at the Crystal Ridge branch on April 11, also with a 2:30 start time.

Events for children during the week ahead include Family Time and the Harry Potter Club on Tuesday, both at the Centennial branch, Stories for 2s and 3s on Wednesday at Crystal Ridge, and a Spring story and craft at the Stevensville branch on Thursday afternoon.

Don't forget to get your tickets for Catherine Gidner's author visit on Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Centennial branch, sponsored by the Writers'

Union.

Gidner is the insightful and laugh-out-loud funny author of *Too Close to the Falls*. After the Falls, and her newest title, *Coming Ashore*.

All branches of the Fort Erie Public Library will be closed tomorrow, April 3 and Monday, April 6 for the Easter holiday.

All branches will be open for regular hours on Saturday, April 4. The website www.fepc.ca is always open for browsing the collection, doing research and downloading magazines, ebooks and audiobooks.

Amy Roebuck is the Community Services Coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

Plato: 'I feel in love with Teale's daily nature records'

Many of us have mentors. Or she who is a trusted adviser.

Some have business, or spiritual mentors they can depend on.

I had two nature mentors. The late Bert Miller was my inspiration in my younger days. You were always learning something from him. His advice and knowledge was always sound.



Earl Plato
When Nature Calls

A Teal is a Teal is a Teal. Right on.

Past Mayor John Teal and his well recognized sister, Dr. Pat Teal, we all know. Many of us know others locally with the Teal surname. This article is about another person with that surname but spelled T-e-a-l-e.

That's right with an ending 'e'. Edwin Way Teale was a Pulitzer prize winning nature writer.

In recent years I found inspiration in a neat nature diary. *A Walk Through the Year*.

I fell in love with Teale's daily nature records. I never met the man or his wife, Nellie.

However, six years ago we

Here is a little excerpt.

"Nellie has just come up the long lane from the mailbox.

She arrives with news of something special more than mail for me to see, something to record on color film.

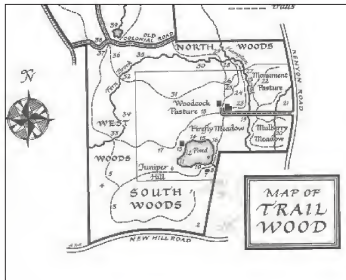
Down the lane we go, my camera slung on my shoulder.

We cross the bridge, pass the mulberry tree and leave Hampton Brook behind. We almost reach Kenyon Road when we stop beside the wall (no. 21). ... Against the background of the lichened wall is a large Jack-in-the-Pulpit. It lifts its green spathe striped with delicate vertical darker lines."

Nellie Teale had brought her husband not for the Jack but for - "... Its wings outspread, its twin antennae like miniature ferns was a graceful Luna moth. Its coloring seems to glow in the morning light. A perfect specimen. I record my pictures."

Teale was a professional nature photographer. There are many in his book.

Thanks to Ron Goodridge



Map of Trail Wood.

of Fort Erie who informed us of the return of the Bald eagles. On the first day of Spring we saw a Bald Eagle in the Inco property in Port

Colborne, wife, Elaine, first spied the Bald eagle perched high on a tree in the interior. We drove a little farther and there back in the woods was

its big, bulky nest.

The eagles have landed. Earl Plato is an author and Fort Erie resident.

Everyone should make transit a priority

People often complain it costs too much.

It is underutilized, doesn't run long enough,

or far enough and is never full enough.

Yet, for many people in our community, it's a lifeline.

Public transit, the bus. Regional or otherwise, if you don't use it, you may not appreciate it. If you do use it, you understand.

There are exceptions. Many people appreciate the value of public transit. Even if they don't use it, they don't mind paying for it through their Local and Regional taxes.

I'd like to suggest we pay a little more so it works better for those that rely on it and need it most.

I suspect that may go over like a lead balloon for some. Others may get it. If you need a little convincing, here's what I've got.

Transportation is a determinant of health for many people in Niagara. In other words, a person's health and well-being absolutely depends on being able to get where they need to go.

Whether it's to work, school, doctor's appointments, or a social event, the bus is that person's lifeline. Without transportation, these people — our families, friends and neighbours, are stuck.

The benefits of public transit are far reaching.



Rhonda Barron
Bridges Community Health Centre

tion in greenhouse gases; individual health and happiness; or prosperous and sustainable communities?

Now that I have made that argument, consider this: A public transit subsidy for adults and seniors with a low-income is the way to go and convincing our municipal governments to implement a fair, fare policy is an important and logical pursuit.

There is research supporting that it improves an individual's quality of life. For our businesses, it's a very important factor in attracting and retaining a diverse workforce, especially young people.

A recent paper from the Canadian Urban Transit Association shows that public transit contributes \$10 billion to Canada's annual economy; it employs 45,300 Canadians directly, and 24,300 indirectly. It reduces vehicle operating costs by approximately \$5 billion and reduces traffic collisions, saving another \$2.5 billion. It's no small matter to the ecologically-minded that public transit also reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 2.4 million tons every year.

These numbers don't even tell us the whole story. How do we place a dollar value on a reduc-

Not only is this within their sole jurisdiction, it's an excellent way for our local governments to take a stand on poverty, increase the well-being of their constituency and help grow the tax base by attracting new businesses.

We tend to think of these issues as something that needs to be addressed by higher levels of government. But that's not the case. Municipal government has the potential to address poverty, well-being and economic prosperity right here in our own backyards.

Why not start with a transit subsidy for low-income adults and seniors?

A 'fair fare' helps people access education, employment, volunteer opportunities and appointments. It reduces social isolation and loneliness. It supports businesses. It also helps people who are having a hard time making ends meet because they won't have to choose between buying a transit pass or buying groceries and basic necessities.

If you would like more information on how to support 'fair fares', contact the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network's Transportation Working Group. Visit their website at www.wipeoutpoverty.ca

Rhonda Barron is a health promoter from Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie.

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From the gardener's journal: 'What a thrill' to see signs of spring's arrival

Ruth Vold Markle
Special to The Times

The Sunday morning we woke up to the snow reminded me of our springs in the north when we could have snow for breakfast and snow for lunch.

It's funny that we welcome snow for Christmas and deeply resent it when it comes at spring break or near Easter or Passover. Certainly, now we know any snowfall will be brief and passing—That's something to celebrate as we look forward to more warmth.

As many of you folk are aware I volunteer in the great outdoors at a few places.

I am very committed to community vegetable gardens and you will hear more about that as the sea-

son progresses. And of course to butterfly gardens—thanks again Maple Park Lodge for taking up that challenge.

A reminder to all of us, a patch of garden approximately the size of the top of a cardboard table can sustain butterflies, plants and other environmentally positive insects. Most of us can find the space for that somewhere.

During this week's melt, I found bulbs poking through the soil and in some cases through the snow.

Determined or just timed, what a thrill to see that life sign.

It reminded me of this lovely quote from June Masters Bacher, "Spring crept through my window, perched upon the sill and kindled flames of yellow upon a daffodil."

Don't we all thrill at the sight of these lovely early blooms of spring?

Working in the greenhouse at the high school is such a treat now that the warmth of the sunshine has brought new growth spurts each day and an endless supply of blooms.

You just want to stand and breathe it all in and then go to work planting seeds of hope for the spring and summer harvest.

We should have a good and healthy crop if Mickey and Minnie mouse and offspring and Jerome and Jeanne squirrel can remain in the great outdoors.

The plan is a "great vegetable and plant plus" sale on May 9. Keep that date in mind please.

And as this month is ending we continue to look skyward.

Our full moon in April

will be on the 4th.

In the west they will see a lunar eclipse on that date but we will catch only the beginning as the moon sets at dawn. Venus will pass just left of the Seven Sisters star cluster between the 10th and 13th of the month. Jupiter will be bright in the south sky for the month. And by month's end we should have a full fourteen hours of daylight. Everyone claps!

The extended sunlight is great for growing and if you have begun indoor seeds you may be able to move them to a more sunny location now that they are becoming sturdier. Some of those cold weather vegetables like kale and spinach can take the cooler spaces as long as the frost stays away. Some of the herbs like rosemary and thyme and

oregano begin a new spurt as well.

April is a great month to plant trees and shrubs.

After the harsh winter we may have to do some replacement. The local growers and nurseries will be in full growth and well worth a visit with your plans in mind.

As you contemplate your vegetable growing why not plan for extra and share your fresh produce with the food banks or someone who has not access to fresh vegetables.

We are a great community and sharing is a major part of how we express our care for each other.

One more share includes this thought from the ancients: "For the winter is past, the rain (snow) is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth. The time of singing of birds

has come." Song of Solomon 2:11,12.

Many mornings we can hear the glad songs and see the golden pink hues of spring sky.

I saw my first robin on the first day of spring and heard my first red wing blackbird in the bush just a day ago.

So much to be glad about in this season. I hope you are able to get outside and enjoy the sunshine and the beginning of growth all around.

Thanks for sharing your thoughts and ideas, your wisdom keeps the creative flowing. See you on the trails and along the Lake and River.

Happy spring, and as always, keep growing.

Ruth Vold Markle is a member of the Fort Erie Horticulture Society.

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Health Corner

Title: A Night Guard Mystery

Why a night guard is good for you.

If you are suffering from tooth wear, it is possible that you were suggested to wear a night guard. A night guard is a wonderful device to protect you from grinding your teeth together during the night. With this type of grinding, a night guard can be beneficial to you. This is called "bruxism". It is a side to side movement of your jaws during your sleep mediated by your brain impulses. It is one of those that a person beside you while sleeping can distinctively hear. On average, 5% of the population suffer from a bruxism. And if you are suspecting you might be a bruxer, check with your dentist. A night guard can save your teeth.



Dr. John Inigo

Why a night guard can be bad for you.

I don't mean to confuse you but if you are not a true bruxer (not grinding side to side during your sleep), your wears can be from other problems. One of the other problems is a sleep disorder or sleep apnea. Often people suffering from sleep apnea show remarkable tooth wear somewhat similar to bruxism. This can be quite confusing. But if you have some type of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), your night guard can make it worse because a night guard can open your lower jaw and push the lower jaw back

hence pushing your tongue posterior more behind than usual. This collapse of your tongue can lead to more incidences of sleep apnea. If you suffer from snoring, or not getting enough sleep, or your partner suspects you are suffering from a sleep apnea, it is important that you check with your medical doctor who can help you with proper diagnosis. It is important to know which is which so that you are getting a treatment for proper conditions. Please remember that sleep apnea is a medical condition, you need to consult with your medical doctor or a sleep doctor.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway Ontario. He can be reached at Inigo Bertie Dentistry 905.871.2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry 905.894.5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com

Famous cheese maker has Stevensville roots

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Kraft products have become a staple on many dinner tables in North America.

And the company continues to grow.

Last Tuesday, representatives from Kraft Foods Group announced that it will merge with another well known company, H.J. Heinz, to form the Kraft Heinz Company.

The agreement will see the Kraft Heinz Company become the third largest food and beverage company in North America, according to a press release issued by Kraft Foods.

But before Kraft became a major player in the food market, the company's founder, James Lewis Kraft, had his humble beginnings in Greater Fort Erie.

"J.L. Kraft was my great uncle," said Fort Erie's Diana Kelley.

Although she never met him, Kelley said her father described Kraft "as a generous man."

J.L. Kraft, was married to Pauline Elizabeth Platt, and together they had one daughter, Edith.

Kraft was born the second of 11 children to George Kraft and Minerva Tripp on the Kraft family farm on Bowen Road at the corner of Winger Road in Stevensville on Dec. 11, 1874.

Kraft attended school at S.S. No. 9 on Airline Street in Stevensville. He went to work as a clerk in Richard Ferguson's general store in Fort Erie from 1901 to 1902, earning \$500 per year.

Kraft went to work for the Shedd cheese Company in Buffalo as a secretary and treasurer in 1902.

With \$65 in his pocket, Kraft went to Chicago in 1903 where he rented a horse and wagon and established his own business of buying cheese wholesale and sold it to local grocers.

After struggling through the early years, Kraft brought his brothers Charles Herbert, Frederick,



J.L. Kraft, with his wife Pauline, with whom he had one daughter, Edith.

Norman and John Henry on board, making his enterprise a family business.

By 1909, the J.L. Kraft and Brothers Company was incorporated with J.L. Kraft as president. Five years later, the company opened its first cheese factory.

In 1916, Kraft patented a cheese pasteurizing process that transformed the

food industry. The new process prevented spoilage which allowed cheese to be transported longer distances.

"Consequently, the U.S. Armed Forces were able to add it to their rations which provided an increase in demand," said Bruce Schinkel.

Schinkel's uncle, Albert Besch, married Kraft's sister Florence, and eventually settled in Buffalo.

"Just about all of J.L.'s brothers and brothers-in-law worked for Kraft in Chicago at some point," Schinkel said.

Albert worked at the Chicago company for a few years, but died young in 1916. After Albert died, Florence and her children moved back to Stevensville to live with her mother.

Schinkel said Kraft introduced a number of innovative products and progressive marketing techniques to make his company one of North America's leading food producers.

Over the course of the years, Kelley's family collected many newspaper clippings that chronicled Kraft's life. Many of these articles and memorabilia have been donated to the Fort Erie Historical Museum.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation honoured Kraft's life by unveiling a commemorative plaque during a special ceremony at the Fort Erie Leisureplex and Banquet Hall in 2003.

"I remember it was an emotional day. It was nice to be involved," Kelley said.

The plaque has since been installed on the Niagara Boulevard across from Forsythe Street. It gives a brief history of Kraft's life, his dedication to his community and church and the company he founded more than 100 years ago.

"It's amazing," Kelley said of Kraft's humble beginnings in Stevensville. "I don't think a lot of people understand the importance of it all or how special it is."

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

BRUCE SCHINKEL Special to The Times

Author to visit Fort Erie Public Library

Author Catharine Gildiner will discuss her latest book, *Coming Ashore*, at the Fort Erie Public Library's Centennial Branch.

Gildiner, who also wrote *Too Close to the Falls* and *After the Falls*, will read from her latest book and answer questions on Wednesday, April 8 at 1 p.m.

Her visit is sponsored by the Writers' Union of Canada. Call 871-2546, ext. 300 or 305 to reserve tickets. Tickets are \$2.

All of Gildiner's books will be available for sale and signing.



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Central Avenue Bridge replacement underway

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

The long anticipated replacement of one of Fort Erie's most iconic bridges is now underway.

Construction began Friday and is expected to be completed by August 2016. In the meantime, Sandy Annunziata, Fort Erie's regional councillor, said motorists may experience some traffic delays.

"For the most part, traffic will be down to one lane, it will require some patience," Annunziata said. "There will be a two week period in August 2016 where the bridge will be inaccessible to complete the construction."

Annunziata said he has encouraged members of the

public to attend an information session that was held Wednesday at Central Fire Station to learn more about the project and how the construction will impact drivers.

Town and Region staff were on hand to answer the public's questions. The Niagara Region approved the project during its 2015 budget deliberations. Annunziata said the project has been awarded to Rankin Construction and the cost to replace the bridge, which was built in 1953, is \$14.5 million with the Town of Fort Erie kicking in \$650,000.

The replacement of the aging bridge is the first step to revitalizing Fort Erie's downtown core.

"(The replacement of the bridge) shows people that



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Construction on the Central Avenue Bridge replacement began Friday.

things are happening.

When it's finished, it will make the downtown more inviting. The bridge will have a gateway feature and it will have elevators that are

more dramatic visually."

Annunziata said now is the time for "governments to strengthen the things that they can control" such as transit, infrastructure and housing to foster job creation.

"It's time to recognize that small communities like Fort Erie are the drivers of jobs

and the economy, not passengers. Stronger infrastructure, like new bridges and roads, means a better quality of life for all of us."

Visit www.forterietimes.ca for more information about the bridge replacement.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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Sun Media sale to Postmedia gets green light

Antonella Artuso
QMI Agency Niagara

Postmedia Inc. has cleared a major hurdle in its bid to bring the Sun Media chain into the fold.

After a five-month investigation of the purchase, the Competition Bureau has issued a "no-action" letter that permits the sale to go

forward.

"This is a landmark decision," Postmedia CEO Paul Godfrey said Wednesday.

A similar-sized merger of two major newspaper chains would likely have been strongly opposed even just 10 to 15 years ago, but the media landscape has changed and the deal puts the company in a much better position to compete against foreign-

based digital giants, Godfrey said.

Postmedia chair Rod Phillips said the \$316-million deal is still subject to a number of conditions, but the transaction will be completed within the next few weeks.

Phillips said Postmedia will be welcoming 173 Sun Media brands and 2,500 Sun employees.

"This is an exciting day for our company, Postmedia," Phillips said. "It is also a very exciting day for Canadian media."

The two companies are not exactly strangers to each other.

Many of the leaders at Postmedia, including Godfrey, served previous stints at Sun Media.

Godfrey sported his "Sun"

collar for the press conference, and even wore shoes with a newspaper print motif.

But Godfrey said Postmedia was not just interested in Sun Media newspapers — its digital properties were a big part of the attraction.

The new larger media company will be the strongest newspaper chain in the country — "ready to take on all comers," Godfrey said.

In a statement, the Competition Bureau said it took five months to review the purchase to ensure that the media environment stayed competitive and strong.

"Given the importance to Canadians of competitive media markets, the bureau conducted an extensive review of this merger," commissioner John Pecman said. "We found that advertisers and readers continue to value print newspapers, despite the growth of online sources as an alternative. However, our review concluded that there would not be significant anti-competitive effects for readers or advertisers arising from the proposed transaction."

Postmedia announced last October that it had reached a deal to purchase Quebecor Inc.'s English-language papers and its digital properties, subject to the Competition

Bureau's review.

The sale included major Sun Media outlets such as the Toronto Star, Ottawa Sun, Winnipeg Sun, Edmonton Sun, Calgary Sun, London Free Press, Canoe, QMI Agency, and 24 Hours in Toronto and Vancouver.

Advertisers will benefit from "one-stop shopping" in a merged chain, Phillips said. "The company expects to operate two papers in some markets."

"The reality is that the competition in Canadian newspapers isn't against newspapers any longer," Godfrey said. "It's against all news media, especially — and most threateningly — huge foreign-based digital companies, unchallenged Goliaths like Google."

The addition of Sun Media will provide Postmedia with the scale and scope to compete with the behemoths, he said.

Phillips thanked Godfrey and his team on behalf of the board of directors for their work on the acquisition.

"Of course, we're not across the finish line yet in terms of this transaction but it's a very important day, a very good day," Phillips said.

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Grant helps create 40 new jobs in Fort Erie

Allison Langley
OMI Agency Niagara

A new government grant is expected to create up to 40 new jobs at a Fort Erie manufacturer.

Funding through the Southwestern Ontario Development Fund announced earlier this month is providing a grant of 10% towards an Airbus Helicopters Canada project, which has a total value of approximately \$4.5 million.

"This new program and investment will strengthen our facility's position, both as a key player in the global aerospace supply chain, and as a major employer in the Niagara region," Romain Trapp, president and CEO of Airbus Helicopters Canada, said in a news release.

The funding will support the company's new production line, equipment and facility upgrades, and employee training required for a contract producing composite engine cowings for the EC225 helicopter, which is sold worldwide.

The company announced last year that, following a competitive process, it had secured the contract from its home base in France.

Airbus Helicopters Canada's Gilmore Rd.

facility has been operating for more than 30 years.

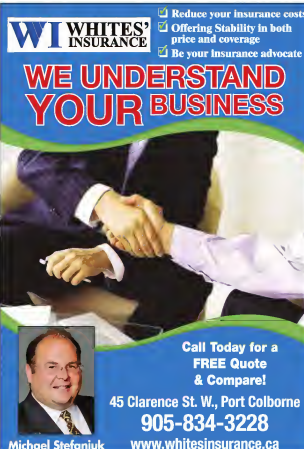
Aerospace is a key component of the province's advanced manufacturing sector, directly employing 17,000 people. Fifteen of the top 25 global aerospace companies have key operations in Ontario.

"We are proud to partner with Airbus Helicopters Canada to bring this significant investment to their Fort Erie facility -- an investment that truly underscores the world-wide reputation of Ontario's aerospace sec-

tor," said Brad Duguid, minister of economic development, employment and infrastructure.

Other projects announced this week, including financial support for two London-based manufacturing companies, have leveraged almost \$44 million in new investments and helped to create or retain over 1,400 jobs.

Development Fund have attracted more than \$1.3 billion in investment and helped to create and retain more than 31,000 jobs in Ontario communities.



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A rendering of the planned makeover for the Peace Bridge.

MATT DAVISON Special to The Times

Peace Bridge Authority unveils renovations

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Motorists travelling between the U.S. and Canada will require patience as one the area's most iconic bridges undergoes a major renovation.

The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority announced the continuation of its \$167 million capital plan, Friday.

"We're ready to move forward with what we hope to be a very impressive remaking, almost makeover of what we consider to be our signature bridge—the bridge that is iconic to both our skylines in western New York and southern Ontario," PBA Chairman Anthony Annunziata said.

The project is funded by the PBA and work is scheduled to begin this summer on the footings, foundations and substructure of the widened Canadian bridge approach. The project includes widening of the bridge to four lanes on the Canadian side, re-decking of the span and installation of a scenic overlook feature along the international boundary line.

Construction is expected to take place over the course of the next four years.

Annunziata said this project won't have an impact on bridge traffic during the summer months, with majority of the work completed in the fall and spring

months.

Annunziata said 6.5 million people cross the border each year with about 700,000 cars accessing the bridge in July and August.

"There will be no lanes closed in the summer," he said. "We're doing this, knowing that we will not have interruption to our busy periods."

The bridge re-decking will begin in the fall of 2016.

Annunziata said widening the Canadian side of the border will "add a fourth lane at the pier which will allow for us to get trucks off the bridge and into the queuing area so they don't obstruct traffic on the bridge."

Annunziata noted the addition of an observation platform which will be "a real difference maker" for the Peace Bridge. It will give people an opportunity to "feel what it's like to stand in both countries at the same time."

The project also includes upgraded lights, an eight-foot wide multi-purpose pedestrian and cycling sidewalk and a new overhead gantry system with variable messaging capability.

Last year, the PBA completed a \$10 million widening of the U.S. approach and is currently completing a \$24 million expansion of the U.S. Customs commercial building.

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Record breaking year for United Way

United Way of St. Catharines & District announced a record-breaking campaign achievement of \$3,507,000 at their annual Awards Celebration Evening on March 20th.

A keynote address was given by Susanne Hutchings, a local dental hygienist who helped United Way develop Brushed Aside: Dental Care Access, an initiative that provides low-income people with interest-free loans for dental treatment. Access to dental care is one of the most commonly unmet needs of people living in poverty in Niagara. Untreated dental problems cause people to live in constant pain and can affect a person's self-esteem. To date, more than 30 people have been helped by Brushed Aside.

Several organizations and volunteers were also recognized for their outstanding contributions to the 2014 campaign.

St. Catharines Transit Commission - Long Standing Service Award, Ridley College - Community Builder Award, Niagara Regional Police Service - Campaign of the Year Award, Hockey Night in St. Catharines - Event of the Year Award, Meridian Credit Union - Corporation of the Year Award, Janice Jones - Volunteer of the Year Award, and Ontario Ministry of Transportation - Employee Campaign of the Year Award.

United Way St. Catharines & District thank all who made the 2014 campaign a success!



United Way Executive Director Frances Hallworth, 2014 Campaign Chair Mark Sherk, and Chair of the Board Sean Simpson announce the incredible 2014 campaign total.



Anita Robertson, centre, is announced as the 2015 United Way Campaign Chair.



Mark Sherk and Frances Hallworth present Chief Jeff McGuire and Special Constable Nancy Nenadovich with their awards.



Keynote speaker, Susanne Hutchings, brings light to the dental health crisis in Niagara.



Employees of Meridian Credit Union celebrate their Corporation of the Year Award.



Rick Dykstra, MP, accepts the award for Event of the Year for Hockey Night in St. Catharines 5 that raised over \$180,000 for United Way.



Volunteer of the Year, Janice Jones, with Chuck Burke and Nancy Stanbridge.



Ted Hoxie, Mark Sherk, Maureen Hoxie, Jordan Hoxie and Bob Hoxie at Bathies Basics Office Products is presented with the Leadership Watch Award.



Photo Credits: Denis Cahill Photography

LET'S GROW TOGETHER

A look back at the week in Niagara

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NIAGARA LIFESTYLE HOME SHOW

Dates: April 2 - 4, Seymour Harwell Sportsplex, St. Catharines

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For more info: Please visit niarahomeshow.com

WHAT'S GROWING IN NIAGARA

HIKE FOR HOSPICE

Dates: Sunday May 3, Lakeside Park, Port Dalhousie

Description: Join us for the 13th Annual Hike for Hospice Niagara on Sunday, May 3rd at Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie. The Hike brings the community together to celebrate a life and raise awareness of hospice palliative care in Niagara.

For more info: Please visit hospiceniagara.ca

SEAFOOD GALA

Dates: Saturday April 11, Fallview Casino, Niagara Falls

Description: The Niagara College Foundation Seafood Gala is one of the premier fundraising events in the Niagara Region. More than 730 business, educational, and community leaders attended in 2014 raising \$130,000 to support NC students. We invite you to be part of our 26th Annual Seafood Gala celebration held at the beautiful Fallview Casino Resort on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

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Breakfast with the Easter Bunny



JOSEPH BURD Special to The Times
The Fort Erie Optimists Club invited the community to join them, for breakfast with the Easter Bunny, egg decorating and a kids colouring contest at their Gilmore Road club house on Saturday. From left, Noel Garrison, enjoyed breakfast with her husband David Garrison, their son Boston and the Easter Bunny.

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A rockin' good time



CHRIS SAWCHUK Special to The Times

The Fort Erie SPCA's annual Tribute Show featuring Johnny Cash and Friends was held Sunday at Fort Erie Leisureplex Banquet Hall. The show starred Jim Yorlido as Johnny Cash, Joe Passion as Jerry Lee Lewis, Pam Yorlido as Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn, Jeff Giles as Buddy Holly, Bill Culp as The Big Bopper, and Roy LeBlanc as Elvis Presley and Roy Orbison. Proceeds from the show benefited the Jarvis Street animal shelter. For more information about the Fort Erie SPCA or to make a donation call 905-871-2461.



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Bouquet for town staff
About two weeks ago, our street still had a heavy snow buildup so I called the Town works yard to ask them to send out a snowplow to our street. The woman who answered was very courteous, even though she must have been getting a lot of similar calls that day, and within a half-hour a plow arrived on our street. A bouquet to the town staff who kept our streets clear of all that snow this winter.

Bouquet for a baby
A bouquet for my friend's extremely adorable baby. You're such a handsome little fellow. You're going to be, you're a lady killer.

Brick for people who take advantage of friends
A bouquet for people that pretend to be your friend when they need something, but when you need their help, they are not there for you. It's awful when you do everything for another person and when the time comes, they act like they don't know you.

Brick for lack of compassion
A brick for a grocery store that said that did not even have the common compassion and decency to do a follow up call on a customer who fell on their entrance due to lack of safety with the wet weather-

er. She broke her arm and is in physical therapy. I won't be buying my bananas there ever again.

Bouquet for auto repair shop
A bouquet for the auto repair shop we share a driveway with.

We are so thankful that the owner kept our parking area well plowed all winter. He saved us from trying to shovel out such a large area and such heavy, heavy snow.

Brick for a neighbour
A brick for the neighbour who lets his dog out at 4 a.m. and forgets his dog is out there.

Bouquet for Mother Nature
Here comes the sun... at last Spring is sneaking in. A bouquet for Mother Nature for finally letting us enjoy some warmer temperatures.

Brick for cheesecake
A brick for the cheesecake I ate the other day. You tasted so good but you're so unhealthy. I knew I shouldn't have enjoyed the cheesecake. Just can't cheesecake be healthier.

Bouquet for a brother
A bouquet for my brother. He is awesome. I just want ed him to know.

Bouquet for Easter celebrations
A bouquet for the Bridgeburg BIA for hosting the Bunny Hop. It's so great to see a group of people working together to make the community a more vibrant and

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Having fun at the Bunny Hop



JOSEPH BURD Special to The Times

The Bridgeburg Station Downtown Business Improvement Association held the inaugural Bunny Hop at former Fire Station 2 on Jarvis Street Saturday. From left, Hailey Merry was entertained by Annie the Clown's balloon animals.

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Special to The Times

Bill Troupe, president of Central Station Firefighters Association donated \$600 to Alan Jones, president of the Fort Erie Lafrance Association. The money will benefit families with loved ones who have cancer.

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Niagara Future Shops closed permanently

Alison Langley and Karena Walter
QMI Agency Niagara

Surprised customers tried peering through windows and knocked on glass

after Future Shop closed all its locations without warning Saturday.

The move eliminates Niagara stores in St. Catharines and Niagara

Falls permanently and impacts employees at both locations.

Tyler Merlino worked at the Future Shop in Niagara Falls for the past four years and said staff at the store had no advance notice of the closure.

"We attended a regularly-scheduled quarterly meeting at 7 a.m. (Saturday) at which time the closing was announced," he said.

He said staff were shocked at the announcement.

"Saying goodbye was not easy," he said.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and experience at Future Shop and I am sad to see it come to an end."

Best Buy Canada announced Saturday it was consolidating its Future Shop and Best Buy stores under the Best Buy brand.

Across the country, 500 full-time and 1,000 part-time jobs are being eliminated.

It was not immediately known how many employees have lost their jobs in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. A person working inside the St. Catharines store directed all calls to Canadian headquarters for Best Buy.

Spokesperson Elliott Chun said Saturday he did not have the number of Niagara employees immediately available. The windows at St. Catharines Fairview Mall location were papered over Saturday with signs directing customers to the Best Buy store on Vansickle Rd. The same view met customers in Niagara Falls, where the Niagara Square location has been in operation since 2006.

"Everything looked business as usual last night," said Peter Martynuk of St. Catharines, standing in front of the Fairview Mall location.

Martynuk said he was inside at 8:45 p.m. on Friday to get a quote for a LG dishwasher. The employee who helped

him said she'd be in Saturday if he wanted to come back and buy it, which he tried doing.

"What happened? I see a closure store."

Another St. Catharines customer, Audrey Davidson, said she spoke with an employee over the phone around 8 p.m. Friday about buying a compact TV for her husband in a nursing home. After the employee checked the stock and determined they had one, Davidson drove out Saturday.

"No one said a word about it closing. It is pretty shocker when you drive here and it's closed," she said.

"For Best Buy you have to go to the other side of the city. I'll head over to Walmart I guess."

One man who was trying to pick up an electronics item being fixed was told he had to pick it up at the Best Buy store.

Shoppers headed to Future Shop in Niagara Falls were also taken aback when they discovered the store had closed down.

"First Target, now this," said Jason Hargreaves, who planned on shopping at the store Saturday morning. "Another big store lost."

A sign on the front door at the Niagara Square location said the store was permanently closed and directed shoppers to the Best Buy in St. Catharines. A recorded phone message informed customers the store was closed, effective immediately.

Best Buy said 66 Future Shop locations have closed permanently. Another 65 will be temporarily closed for one week and re-opened under the Best Buy brand.

Customer gift cards and warranties from Future Shop will be honoured by Best Buy. Future Shop returns and exchanges can also be done at Best Buy.

A press release from the company said laid off employees will receive severance, employee assistance and outplacement support.

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Author has 'no end of patience for the written word'

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Carrie Snyder always knew she wanted to be a writer.

"It was my earliest expressed aspiration and it was sparked by a love of reading, especially fiction," Snyder said. She recalls bringing chapter books from home to read at school.

"My family moved often when I was a child and books and their characters offered the consistency and comfort that only imagined worlds can provide."

As Snyder grew up, she said she approached writing "as a craft to be learned."

"I seem to have no end of patience for the written word and no end of stories and characters whirling around my imagination so writing simply was a natural vocation for my interest and abilities."

Snyder is the second author to be featured in the Ridgeway Reads Spring Reading Series on Friday, April 10 in Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High

School's auditorium at 7 p.m. Snyder will read a passage from her book, *Girl Runner*, a story about former Olympic athlete Aganetha Smart.

Smart, who was famous in the 1920s for her athletic abilities, now at the age of 104, lives in a nursing home, alone and forgotten by history.

Snyder said "there was no 'aha' moment in the formulation" of the main character.

"However, there were several different discoveries that fed into the creation of the novel," Snyder said.

"I knew that I wanted to write about a highly successful competitive athlete. I began writing in the voice of a very elderly woman and simultaneously writing passages from the perspective of a young girl living at the turn of the last century."

For Snyder, finding Aganetha was "a matter of piecing together these disparate parts into a unified whole, and figuring out what era she would have lived in—and then researching what possibilities were open to female athletes

during that time (in the 1920s)."

She said some of her own thoughts and observations did find their way into *Girl Runner*.

"In *Girl Runner*, I certainly drew on my own experiences as a runner," Snyder said.

"I used my imagination to depict the interior dialogue of a truly talented runner but it was easy for me to express the simple joy of running long dis-

tance."

Snyder will read a passage from her book, speak about the research that went into the book and share some stories about real athletes from the 1920s.

Snyder encourages aspiring writers "to read widely and to write daily."

"If you love what you're doing, the rejection that is an inevitable part of an aspiring writer's life will not seem like

an obstacle, but an incentive to learn and improve and figure out how to become the writer you want to be."

Snyder invites everyone who enjoys a good story and discussion to attend the lecture series.

"A reading series is a wonderful opportunity to learn about different subjects, to discover writers whose work you may not yet be familiar with, and to be entertained,

inspired, and maybe even moved," Snyder said.

"To quote Pablo Picasso: 'Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life,'" she added.

Doors to the Ridgeway Reads Spring Reading Series open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

For more information about other authors to be featured in the series visit www.ridgewayreads.com.



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Fort Erie native says serving in the U.S. military 'isn't for everyone'

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Serving in the U.S. military isn't for everyone.

But Fort Erie's Steven Swendsen knew it was the right decision for him to make.

"I've had a lot of opportunities I wouldn't have otherwise had," the 22-year-old said.

"If I would have stayed home, I don't know what else I would have done."

Swendsen comes from a family with a long history of serving in the military "all the way back to The First World War."

"I've always heard about my family who have served. I grew up around it," Swendsen said about why he wanted to join the army.

"I've got a great grandfather who served as a combat engineer with the Navy and an uncle who served in the Marines."

Swendsen grew up in the U.S. and later moved to Fort Erie when he was 16 years old.

"In my senior year at Fort Erie Secondary School, I



Private Steven Swendsen

looked into what it would take to join the Canadian military but in order to join

I had to give up my U.S. citizenship."

So Swendsen decided to

join the U.S. military instead, making a five-year commitment.

When he graduated from FESS in 2011, Swendsen packed his bags, and left two weeks later to report to Fort Benning in Georgia for basic training.

"I remember we had to get up at 4:30 in the morning, shave and make sure our beds were all squared away."

If the beds weren't in "pristine condition," Swendsen's commanding officer "would shove the beds across the room and they would have to be remade."

"There was lots of running," Swendsen recalls. His body was pushed to its limits—physically and emotionally.

"We did a lot of rock marching. That's where you take a ginormous bag filled with 30 to 60 pounds and put it on your back and walk for miles and miles."

There were days Swendsen didn't know how he would continue because the training was demanding.

But he summoned the

courage to keep going to honour his commitment.

"It's tough. But you see all the guys around you, hundreds of other people, who are also fresh into training. There's camaraderie there. There's a lot of bonding between the guys."

Following boot camp, Swendsen joined the Fox Troop 2-3 Cavalry Unit where he trained for two and a half years before he was deployed to Afghanistan.

"I was part of one of the last combat-focused units. My job was to patrol, go on missions and observe," Swendsen said.

While Swendsen said he was proud to be serving in Afghanistan, he admitted there were days when he was afraid for his life.

He watched helplessly as several of his fellow comrades died when the vehicle they were driving "struck an IED [improvised explosive device]."

During those moments when Swendsen was surrounded by bullets tearing through the sky he didn't think about what he would

do next.

"When you're in those situations, you just react."

Swendsen credits his training for allowing him to be able to react in dangerous situations.

"We are doing what we were trained to do," Swendsen said. "After years of training, a lot of us were excited to finally be deployed to use the skills that we learned."

After serving eight months in Afghanistan, Swendsen returned to his home in Fort Erie at the end of February for a month-long leave. On Saturday, he packed up and returned to Fort Hood in Texas to continue training.

He doesn't expect to be deployed for another tour again.

"I think I will continue to train until November of next year when I'm discharged," Swendsen said.

When he leaves the military, Swendsen said he would still like to serve the community, either as a police officer or a Canadian Border Services officer.

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New service to ease border congestion

Alison Langley
CMI Agency Niagara

A new online service available to motor coaches and charter buses is expected to ease traffic congestion at Niagara border crossings.

The new Buffalo Niagara Border Planner program is an online portal and scheduling tool that allows companies to voluntarily alert bridge operators and border services agencies of their impending trip and approximate arrival time at local bridge crossings.

"By knowing approximately how many buses are scheduled to arrive at the border each day, as well as the general time and how many passengers will be on board, border services agencies can make efforts to ensure that appropriate staffing levels are in place to handle this influx of travellers in an expeditious manner," Lew Holloway, general manager of the Niagara Falls

Bridge Commission, said in a press release.

"In better forecasting daily bus arrivals, there will be time savings and an improved border crossing experience for all involved."

Trip data to be made available to customs agencies includes the number and citizenship of passengers. The information will assist customs agents in adjusting staffing levels at bus processing facilities. Participation in the program is voluntary.

The program is being administered by the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, and border services agencies in conjunction with the Ontario Motor Coach Association. For more information, visit www.borderplanner.com.

alison.langley@sunmedia.ca
[Twitter @gfalislangley](https://twitter.com/gfalislangley)

LET'S ALL DO OUR PART! PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



Communities-in-Bloom is committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with a focus on enhancing green spaces in communities.

The Buzz About Bees....Many of us don't think too much about bees (other than perhaps, when we consider them 'pests'), but we should be. They are our most important pollinators, and a lot of bee species are disappearing rapidly all around the world—mainly from the loss of their habitats. But, we can (and should) help them. How? By creating a bee-friendly space in your yard. It's not hard and you'll be happy to learn that bees are really easy to please!

Bees love living in urban areas because they have shorter flight paths and a greater variety of plants & flowers to visit—native plants or heirloom varieties are best.



Gabrielle Todd is Vice-Chair of Communities in Bloom

Did You Know?

All living things that eat plants (including humans!) depend on pollinators.

% of the foods we eat (fruits, nuts, vegetables, and herbs) need pollinators to reproduce.

Bees eat two things: nectar (loaded with sugar, it's a bee's main source of energy) and pollen (which provides proteins and fats).

Bees have good colour vision — that's why flowers are so eye-catching! They especially like blue, purple, violet, white and yellow.

Flowers bred to please people (for size and complexity) are sometimes sterile and of little use to bees.

Creating friendly places for beneficial insects in your garden means they are less likely to move into your house.

Even something small like a tiny flower pot or area can provide a valuable habitat.

These plants, arranged by their bloom time, are just a few of the species that attract bees



To find out more about us, "Like" our Facebook page, Fort Erie Communities in Bloom or visit us at www.forterie.ca

Provide Nourishing Food

Pick a mix of plants that flower at different times so there's always a snack available for when bees are around. (Rule: native plants attract native bees and exotic plants attract honeybees.)

Plant flowers of a single species in clumps about four feet in diameter instead of in scatterings so bees are more likely to find them

Different bees have different tongue lengths — adaptations to different flowers, so a diversity of flower shapes will offer the most benefit to a larger variety of bees.

Make a Bee Bath

Bees and other 'good' insects (including ladybugs & butterflies) need fresh water to drink but most can't land in a conventional bird bath without crashing. They need something solid in the water to land down on.

Line a shallow bowl with rocks.

Add water, but leave the rocks dry so they are like island landing pads.

Put the bath on the ground in your garden. Place it near "problem plants" (ie. those that get aphids) and the beneficial insects that come to drink will look after them.

Refresh the water daily, adding just enough to evaporate by day's end.



Early

Blueberry
Cottonaster
Crabapple
Cranberry
Crocus
Foxglove
Heliotrope
Hazelnut
Heather
Primrose

Mid-season

Blackberry
Cat mint
Catnip
Chives
Dahlia
Lavender
Rasperry
Sunflower
Yarrow
Willow

Late

Aster (perennial)
Beggar's tricks
Borage
Coneflower
Cornflower
Cosmos
Goldenrod
Pumpkin
Sedum
Squash

WE ARE OPEN for business as usual.

Changes to come July 1st

Drop by and take a look!

Driving range is open
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We will remain an 18 hole
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Peewee champions



CHRIS BOLES

Special to The Times

The Fort Erie Junior Motors Peewee Select Team took first place in the Joe McCallion Select Tournament held in Pennsylvania from March 13 to 15. The Motors won three games to qualify for the finals. They put forth another amazing team effort playing hard, fast, disciplined hockey that earned them the top trophy. The team finished the regular season with 19 wins, two losses and two ties. The peewees will compete in the Select Championships in Brantford April from 10 to 12.

From Left, (front row) is Liam Ioanidis, Owen Riel, Ethan Teasdale, (second row) Josh D'uva, Ryan Docker, Greg Keating, Conlon Kellis, Michael Willey, William Schultz, (back row) Ray Riel, assistant coach, Chris Boles, assistant coach, Dawson Walker, Josh Cole, Declan Carr, Jake Boles, Connor Connaughton, Ed Teasdale, assistant coach, Eddie Teasdale, and head coach Jim Connaughton. Absent from photo: Isiah Cole and Noah Turcin.

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April 5th
11am - 4pm**

Winter Ball Hockey winners



FRAN VELLA—METE Special to The Times
On Tuesday, March 24 the Islanders defeated the Hawks 15-10, winning the Winter Session Ball Hockey Championship at the Ridgeway Hockey Rink in Ridgeway. From left, are (back row) Patrick Longboat, (second row) Aiden Purdy, Jack Bernard, Ethan Chamberlain, Thomas Mete and (front) Chase Galvin.

Under The Rainbow Childcare Centre invites you to our Medieval Themed Open House

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Helena Street to remain closed for two to eight weeks

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

A cleanup crew has contained about two million litres of a hazardous chemical spill.

Last week, Mayor Wayne Redekop said Helena Street between Garrison Road

and Albany Street remains closed to motorists and pedestrians as the Town of Fort Erie collaborates with the Niagara Region, the Ministry of the Environment and an environmental cleanup company to continue cleanup efforts of a spill that occurred at 833

Helena St. on March 9. The spilled materials include acetone, toluene and xylene, a solvent-type substance found in paints and adhesives.

Cleanup efforts have continued on a 24-hour basis. The process involves vacuuming and removing the

contaminated liquid. Cleanup efforts have been challenged by the mixing of water from melting snow.

Redekop said Helena Street will remain closed anywhere from two to eight weeks due to large equipment situated along the road, including a number of large steel containers, that are being used in the cleanup efforts.

According to a report from the Niagara Region, there is "no threat to the local

municipal water supply and nearby private wells are being monitored."

"However, the investigation is ongoing and any further impacts to the environment or surrounding properties will be reported as information becomes available."

Kate Jordan, a spokeswoman for the ministry wrote in an e-mail last week Friday that "containment measures have been effective and water samples

from the municipal ditch and drain are showing significantly reduced contaminants."

The ministry continues to "oversee the cleanup work which is progressing," she said.

"No impacts to wildlife have been observed," Jordan added.

For more information call the Niagara Region at 905-980-6000 ext. 3340.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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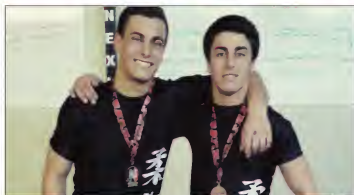
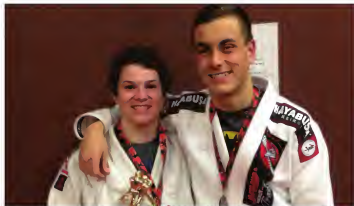
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SAM PASCUZZI Special to The Times

Students from Dayboli-Pascuzzi Jiu-Jitsu competed in a submission only tournament held at the end of February. They represented Fort Erie with hard fighting performances, with some matches that lasted 12 minutes before a tap out. (top, left) CJ Grisafi took first place in his match and Madison Delay took two second place titles in his matches. (Middle, second from the top) Oliver Baldin won second place in his match. (Middle, second from the bottom) CJ Grisafi stands beside his brother, John Grisafi, who won third place in his match. (Bottom left) Sensei Jessica celebrated her students' success at the tournament. Alex Newman finished in second place, Erica Marion, took third place, Abbi Scher, finished in second place, Georgia Dayboli finished in third place and Rebecca Scher finished in second place. Beside Scher is Sensei Sam, Tanner Grabell, who finished in second place, Connor Grabell, who finished in second place. Cole Tustin, who won first place, and Talon Sgambati who won third place. Absent from photos: Ben Scher finished third, Cole Vanduzen finished second and Caleb Sault finished fourth in their matches.



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The Fort Erie Times
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Contact Hamilton for Children's and Developmental Services

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Our board currently has a priority for people with the following skills and/or experiences: lived experience/family experience; finance; legal; French-speaking and/or media. We are looking to fill these vacancies as soon as possible.

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- Phone: 905-522-3304 or 1-877-378-4674 x229
- Email: denise.saiton@contacthamilton.ca or
- Mt: 140 King Street East, Suite 4, Hamilton ON, L8N 1B2

Information about Contact Hamilton can be found on our website at contacthamilton.ca

Our Vision is:

- Inclusive communities where barriers are eliminated, where everyone belongs and realizes their hopes and dreams
- Our Values are:
- Everyone fully participating in community life
- Everyone having the opportunity to define their needs and wants
- Everyone being treated with dignity and respect
- Everyone having access to our services in a meaningful and appropriate way
- Providing services that are flexible, fair and prompt
- Leading by example and being proactive
- Making a positive difference in the lives of the people and communities we serve
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- Challenging ourselves to be the best we can

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Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

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Dated this 17th day of March, 2015.
JOHN T. TEAL, Esq.,
Barrister and Solicitor,
P.O. Box 247,
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Fort Erie, Ontario,
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Solicitor for the Estate Trustee.
Edward Lusk

Legals

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VARIOUS PROPERTIES WITHIN WELAND & PORT COLBORNE

SC-15-05
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & SNOW/ICE REMOVAL SERVICES
VARIOUS PROPERTIES WITHIN FORT ERIE

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING
Friday April 10, 2015 at 9:00 am
(contractors must attend in order to bid)

Details and/or Specifications may be obtained from
Niagara Regional Housing, at
2230 St. David's Road, Throold ON
Campbell East Building
NRH Main Reception
or sent via Courier, with Contractor paying charges,
telephone: (905) (662-9201), Ext. 3908.
Tender documents available for pick up starting
Monday March 30, 2015
Tender Closing Date:
Thursday, April 16 2015, 11:00 am Local Time.
The lowest of any tender not necessarily accepted

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Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

ALL PERSONS having claims against the Estate of **KATHLEEN OAKLEY**, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Municipality of Niagara, who died on or about January 23, 2015 are notified to the undersigned on or before April 3, 2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed to the persons to whom the undersigned shall then have notice of the persons of whose claim they shall not be bound to give notice.

Dated this 13, day of March, 2015
JOHN T. TEAL, Esq.,
Barrister and Solicitor,
P.O. Box 247,
1000 Thompson Road,
Fort Erie, Ontario,
L2A 5M5.
Solicitor for the Estate Trustee
Noreen Lee Smith

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Coming Events

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Italian Canadian Cultural Centre
223 Bell St., Port Colborne
Haddcock, French Fries, Coleslaw,
Coffee / Tea
Apr 3rd, 2015
1 Place - \$10.00
2 Place - \$13.00
Call Theresa at 905-834-3469
or Ida at 905-834-6700

Thank You Notes

Thank You Notes



Our family and friends
Are riches under
Their love and devotion
Far better than gold.

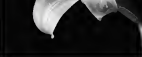
To everyone who attended my 75th Birthday Bash - for the many good wishes, gifts and flowers. To my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
Thank You!
Love all of you,
Glinny

Obituaries

GOODWIN, Margaret - On Thursday, March 26th, 2015 Margaret passed peacefully at the Glendale Lodge in her sleep. She was predeceased by her husband Robert (March 2001) and her son Robert (October 2014). She was the proud mother of Cathy Malone, Marilyn Lee (Gillis), Dennis (Lee), Brian (Margaret) and Harold (Shirley). She leaves behind 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Our mother was a proud war bride joining dad in 1946 when she landed at Pier 21 to join dad on P.E.I. The family wish to thank the wonderful staff at Glendale Lodge for their compassion & great care and all their hugs. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES** entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Sunday, March 29th, from 2-4 and 7-9pm, Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church on Monday, March 30th at 10:30am. Interment to follow at Windway Memorial Cemetery. If so desired donations in memory of Margaret may be made to Ladies Auxiliary at Glendale Lodge.

OTT, Harold William (Bill) at Greater Niagara General Hospital on Saturday, March 28th, 2015. Harold William OTT, beloved husband of the late Stella. Dear brother of Virginia Jones (Don) also survived by several children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and numerous nieces & nephews. At Harold's request cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES** 905-894-0120

ZAMPALONI, Rose Mary passed away at Hamilton General Hospital on March 24th, 2015 at the age of 53. Treasured wife and soulmate of Robert. Warm and loving mother of Jenna and Devan. Devoted grandmother of Grayson and unborn brother and Mother Carrie. Adored daughter of Leroy and Eleanor DenSertis. Loved daughter-in-law of Rita and the late Bob Zampaloni. She will be missed greatly by her sisters Margaret Lacroix and Barbara Sims. Also by her sisters and brothers-in-laws Scott Sims, the late Gilles Lacroix, Cathy Zampaloni, Karen Lighthart, and Craig Zampaloni. A wonderful aunt to Nicole, Janice, Matthew and Michael. Arrangements have been made at Niagara Funeral Alternatives.



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**Easter gifts for everyone!
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Creations by Doodlebug



PHIN, Kim Stuart - October 23, 1959 - March 18, 2015. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Stuart Phin of Fort Erie, Ontario. He is survived by his daughters Amber, Chantal and Adrienne; his parents, Valerie & James Phin; sister, Alison (Andy) Price of Port Colborne, Ontario; sister, Diane (Steve) Pratt in England; brother, Carl (Kim) Stony Plain Alberta and his close friend Karen Stadden of Niagara Falls, Ontario. He will also be remembered by many nieces, nephews and cousins in the United Kingdom, United States and Canada. Stuart was born in Gloucestershire, England and immigrated to Canada in 1973 with his family. For years, he enjoyed a career as a truck driver which allowed him to see many parts of Canada and the United States. He will be remembered for all his volunteer efforts with the Rose Seaton School PTA and the Fort Erie Secondary School. During the summer months he enjoyed coaching little league soccer. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation at Pen Financial, Fort Erie for Chantal and Adrienne. Arrangements in the care of

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JACOBI, Donald Henry - Born September 21, 1926 in Manor Saskatchewan and passed away peacefully on Friday March 27th, 2015 at the age of 88, with his family by his side, holding his hand. Don is survived by his children Evelyn (Bob) Smith, Jim Jacobi (Melanie), Ken (Pat) Jacobi and Joyce Sals, grandchildren Doug (Chantal) Nigh, Andrea Jacobi, Lisa (Al) Hayes, Ken (Sue) Jacobi, Helena and Holly Sals. Also survived by great-grandchildren Aurora and Anderson Jacobi, Austin Nigh and Emmett Hayes, by his wife Ethel, stepson Mike (Twila) Mariatt and step-granddaughter Kryetel and his first wife Helen Jacobi and by his sister Ida Hocking. Predeceased by his grandson Kraig Jacobi. He served as a Sgt. in the Canadian Army then moved to Fort Erie in 1946. He was in the reserve Army for many years after that. He is a proud Veteran and member of the Fort Erie Legion Branch 71 and spent many of his working years at D & W Upholstery. Arrangements were entrusted to **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgway, on Wednesday April 1, 2015 from 10 to 11:30. A service took place in the chapel. A reception followed and interment took place at Greenwood Cemetery. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Fort Erie SPCA.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.

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In Memoriams



JEFFERY VINCENT HEARN
 December 12, 1968- April 2, 2011

*Remembering you is easy
 We do it every day.
 Missing you is a heartache
 That never goes away*

Love you forever and always,
 Mom, Mary Jane, Meaghan,
 Meaghan, Delaney, Reagan and Myley.

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*"How lucky I am to have something that makes
 saying goodbye so hard." - A.A. Milne*



George Orton Davis

His life fulfilled, his actions kind
 A patient nature, a brilliant mind
 Strong, talented, loving, gave support beyond measure
 A proud dad and grandpa, whose memory we'll treasure

Love, Wendy & Moin, Cindy & Joe,
 Mahdi, Eric, Joseph and Brooklynne

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In Loving Memory



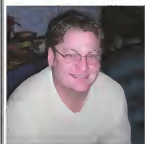
KATHLEEN KONINGS
 April 3, 2014

As I sit here looking back and thinking of all our wonderful memories throughout the years. I can feel my eyes fill up with tears. It is hard to believe it has been one year since you passed away. Mom in my heart it feels just like yesterday. Holidays, special occasions... just every day life is not the same, as you are not here. No one calls out your name. I miss your laughter, smile and caring touch. This last year you have missed so much, the birth of your new grand baby, whom will grow into a beautiful fine young lady. She is part of you as she was given your namesake, little Kathleen we call her. Mom I miss our special times when we would just sit and talk, laugh for no reason just planning and discussing traveling to Mexico in the right season. I miss shopping with you at the mall, but most of all, hearing your voice, as you are not here to call. I hope in Heaven you are free of pain because the day God came for you he had such a wonderful angel to gain. You were an amazing lady, the most kind, thoughtful person anyone could meet, such a wonderful mother. I was so very blessed having you as a Mom, I would have chosen no other.



Forever missed by daughter
 and best friend Kerl,
 Daddy, Christopher and family.

*Missing you Today
 Forever in Our Hearts*



Jeffery "Hearnzy" Hearn
 December 12, 1968 - April 2, 2011

Those special memories of you
 will always bring a smile
 if only we could have you back
 for just a little while.
 The we could sit and talk again
 just like we used to do
 you always meant so very much
 and always will do too.
 The fact that you're no longer here
 will always cause us pain
 but you're forever in our hearts...
 ...until we meet again.

Love Always and Forever
 Shannon, Harlie and Scoots

Kathy Konings

In loving memory of a very dear friend,
 Kathy, who passed away April 3, 2014.

Sweet memories will linger forever:
 Time cannot change them, it's true;
 Years that may come cannot sever
 My loving remembrance of you.

Sadly missed by Charlene Teal

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Blakes Men's Wear	Griffon Pub	Paul's Garden Centre
Blue Star Restaurant	Harvey's	Strada West
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